

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 156099 TOSEC 050087

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ZUMWALT SAYS PRESIDENT FORD MISLED ABOUT SOVIET
CHEATING ON ARMS CONTROL.

IN DISCUSSION JUNE 30 ON ABC MORNING TELEVISION PROGRAM
AM AMERICA, FORMER CNO ZUMWALT WAS ASKED FOLLOWING QUESTION
BY PROGRAM'S JOHN LINDSAY:

LINDSAY: PRESIDENT FORD JUST RECENTLY MADE A STATEMENT
KNOCKING DOWN SUGGESTIONS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE CHEATING
ON ARMS REDUCTION IN THE LONG, LONG PERIOD OF TIME THAT
WE'VE HAD IN COMING TO TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE
SOVIETS ON REDUCTION OF DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS. YOU WERE IN
CHARGE OF THE DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY IN PART; HOW DO YOU
ASSESS THAT STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT?

ZUMWALT: WELL, I THINK IT'S INACCURATE. I THINK IT'S
GROSSLY INACCURATE. I THINK THAT FORMER SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE MEL LAIRD, IN HIS ARTICLE IN READER'S DIGEST, HAS
MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN CHEATING,
AND HE'S DISCUSSED ONLY SOME OF THE SEVERAL AREAS IN WHICH
THEY'RE CHEATING. I AGREE WITH WHAT SEN. JACKSON

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PAGE 02 STATE 156099 TOSEC 050087

SUBSEQUENTLY SAID, EXPRESSING SURPRISE AT THE STATEMENT,

AND WHAT SEN. BUCKLEY SUBSEQUENTLY SAID, THAT THIS INDICATES THAT THE PRESIDENT IS CUT OFF FROM ACCESS TO ADVERSARY VIEWS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AS A RESULT OF

DR. KISSINGER, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THROUGH HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANT, DR. KISSINGER, ON THE OTHER HAND, AND I THINK THAT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE CONGRESS LOOK INTO THIS, AND MAKE THE PRESIDENT AWARE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN MISLED.

LINDSAY: DO YOU THINK THAT DR. KISSINGER DID MISLEAD THE PRESIDENT ON THIS ONE POINT?

ZUMWALT: IT'S CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS MISINFORMATION, AND THAT WITHIN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION, ACCOMODATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SOVIET CHEATING WHICH CHANGE, AS A RESULT, THE WHOLE NATURE OF THE ORIGINAL STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION IN A WAY THAT CONGRESS HAS NEVER EVEN BEEN INFORMED OF.

LATER, ZUMWALT STATED THAT DURING LAST TWO YEARS OF NIXON ADMINISTRATION, PRESIDENT WAS SO ISOLATED THAT JCS FELT IT HAD NO WAY OF BRINGING ITS VIEWS TO BEAR AND WAS FREQUENTLY SURPRISED BY "MAJOR DECISIONS HAVING SIGNIFICANT INPUT IN THE DEFENSE PICTURE".

LINDSAY: CAN YOU GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE?

ZUMWALT: I SUPPOSE THE MOST CELEBRATED EXAMPLE WAS THE FACT THAT WE LEARNED FROM THE RUSSIANS, ELEVEN MONTHS AFTER A SECRET PROTOCOL HAD BEEN SIGNED BY DR. KISSINGER WITH THE RUSSIANS, THAT THAT PROTOCOL EXISTED, AND IT WAS A PROTOCOL WHICH HAD POTENTIALLY MAJOR IMPACT ON THE NUMBER OF SEA-BASED MISSILES THAT COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR AGAINST US, WHEN WE FINALLY THRESHED IT OUT OF THE FILES OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ELEVEN MONTHS LATER.

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